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19 Natural Ways to Get Rid of Weeds

Andre Campbell Add comment

Many gardeners have been utilizing natural means to control weeds in their vegetable gardens and flower beds. In this article, we will look at the best home remedies and organic methods to eliminate weeds.

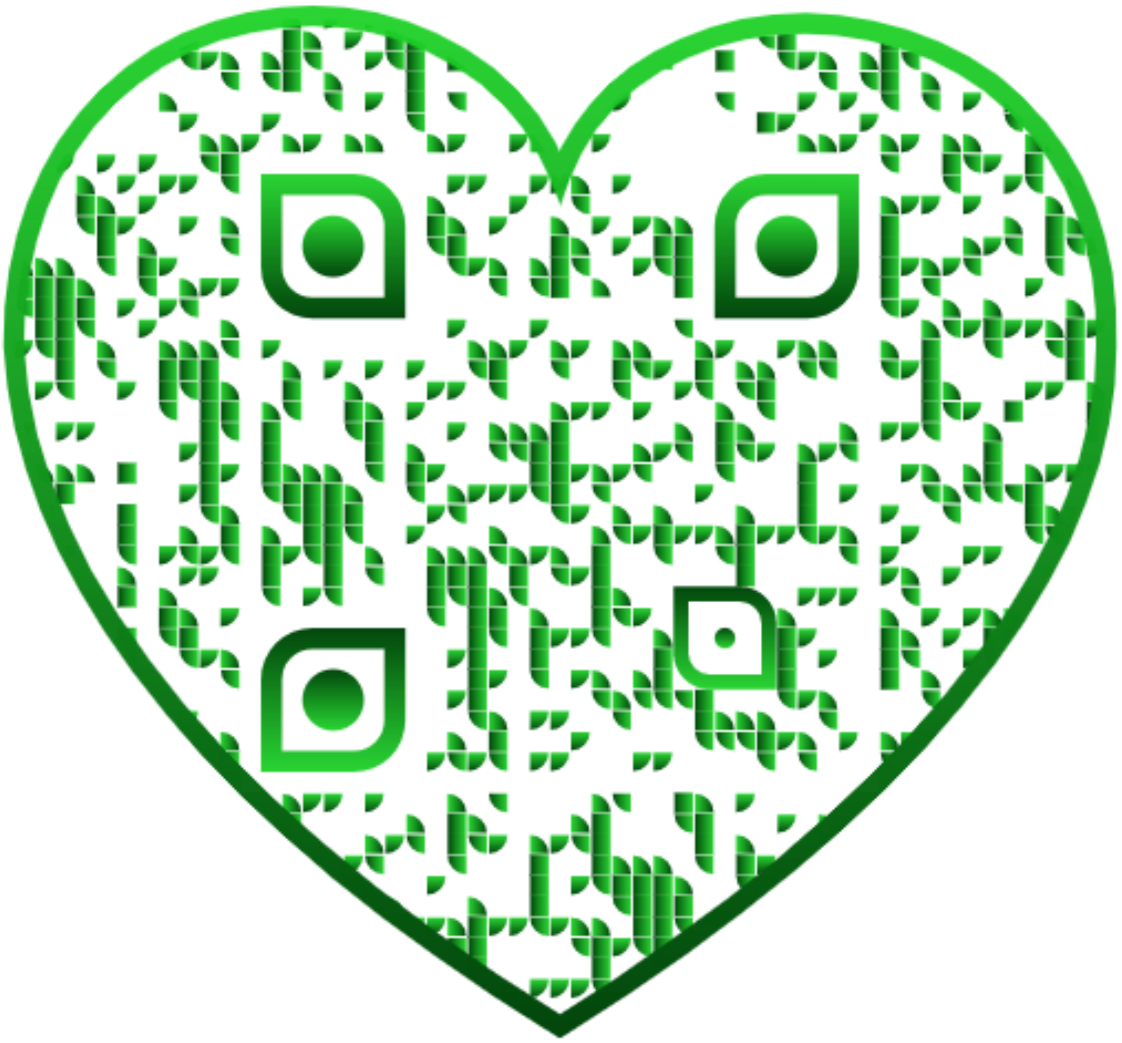
Here's how to get rid of weeds naturally.

1. Pull Them Out

One of the easiest ways to get rid of weeds organically from your lawn and vegetable garden is to pull them out.

Weeds can be difficult to pull up. There is also the risk of damaging the root systems of the flowers and plants you want to keep.

To avoid this, it's best to pull them when the ground is moist. Pull them out slowly. Pulling by hand is also the best way to get rid of weeds without killing grass.



Mulch helps to keep the soil cool and moist. You can also use it to get rid of weed seeds as it prevents them from receiving much-needed sunlight.

Even better, if you make use of organic mulches, you invite such helpful bugs as crickets and carabid beetles which feed on weed seeds.

3. Hot Water

Pouring hot water on weeds will cause them to dry up and die. They will wither and die in 24 to 48 hours.

This natural weed killer option requires no additional tools or ingredients. Nearby plants will also be safe as the water is likely to cool down without causing them any damage.

4. Newspaper

When properly layered, newspapers will stop light from passing through. Without sunlight, the weeds will be unable to continue growing while also stopping any new ones from springing up.

After laying down the wet newspaper on the weeds, cover it with a layer or two of mulch to further block sunlight. As a bonus, as the newspaper breaks down, it adds nutrients to the soil, so it's a two-for-one deal for your vegetable garden.

5. Essential Oils

Essential oils can help stop weeds from taking over your garden, flower bed, or driveway.

Oils such as peppermint, cinnamon, and clove are good at suppressing weeds. Follow the recipe here to make a homemade essential oil herbicide.

6. Vinegar

To eliminate weeds with vinegar, combine one gallon of household white vinegar with a tablespoon of organic liquid soap in a spray bottle.

7. Vodka

Combine 2 tablespoons of liquid soap, one ounce of vodka, and 2 cups of warm water in a spray bottle. Use this to coat the leaves and roots of the weeds.

The soap will let the solution stick to the plants and the vodka will remove the waxy coating from the leaves, causing them to dry out.

8. Flaming

Of course, you want to exercise caution when using flammable devices. Using a **small blowtorch,** spread the flame, being very careful to target only what you want to eradicate.

9. Lemon Juice

You can use the juice of lemons as a cost-effective organic weed control remedy. It works relatively quickly and easily.

Add enough lemon juice into a spray bottle and begin coating the weeds. The citric acid in it will burn the weeds, causing them to wilt and dry up.

10. Don’t Give Them Space

By planting flowers close enough, you should rarely have weed problems.

For example, Walker’s Low Catmint is a gorgeous perennial that boasts lavender-blue flowers. Because it grows thickly, there will be hardly any space for weeds to develop.

11. Corn Gluten Meal

Corn gluten meal can stop weed seeds from germinating [1]. Additionally, it will act as a great organic fertilizer because it contains nitrogen.

12. DIY Herbicidal Spray

This homemade herbicide spray uses vinegar and Epsom salt.

Mix Epsom salt with vinegar at a ratio of 1:6 until the salt dissolves completely. It doesn’t matter which **brand** of Epsom salt you use. You can also add a tablespoon of organic liquid soap.

Spray this natural herbicide directly on weeds, whether they are on sidewalks, between pavers, or in your garden. Reapply a few times to achieve permanent results.

13. Use Goats

Another way to get rid of a yard full of weeds without chemicals is to use goats.

Goats can reach almost any area they want, and best of all, they'll till the soil with their hooves as they move. However, it's best to use these animals before planting, lest they mistake your harvest for a tasty treat.

14. Cover Crops

These are plants that are planted to cover the soil. Cover crops can block the sunlight from weeds and steal their nutrients.

The farmer then turns these crops under the soil when the time comes to plant food crops. Great cover crops include alfalfa, cowpea, buckwheat, oats, and rye.

15. Soil Solarization

Soil solarization is environmentally friendly and organic. It uses heat from the sun to fry weeds and their seeds [2]. Besides, solarizing will also destroy bad organisms in the soil.

For the process, wet bare soil thoroughly with water before covering it over with clear plastic. Next, sink the edges of the plastic into the soil so air doesn't get in.

Let it sit for over four weeks in the hot sun before removing the plastic. Just be careful when using this method as it's entirely indiscriminate. You may wind up killing beneficial organisms as well as harmful ones.

16. Avenger Weed Killer

This is a commercial product that is made from all-natural ingredients. **Avenger** is OMRI-listed, fast-acting, and an excellent contact herbicide.

17. Borax

Shake well and coat troublesome areas. However, try to only saturate the leaves and not the actual ground.

18. WeedGuard Plus

This is an organic alternative to landscape fabric that stands an excellent chance of preventing weeds from attaining the light they need to grow.

This **special fabric** is designed to smother weed seeds before they get a chance to germinate. Moreover, it's 100% biodegradable and fairly easy to apply.

19. Harvest and Eat Them

Some weeds can be eaten as vegetables. Moreover, there are likely many edible weeds growing in your garden and backyard. Instead of destroying them, utilize those wild edible plants in salads and other dishes.

Takeaway

Weeds can be very difficult to deal with as they take up space and suck up nutrients from the soil. Try the remedies above to get rid of them.

Save

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